

# Staff Report

## Regular Board Meeting

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Director of Strategic Services

**SUBJECT:** Consider approval of Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Highland for Law Enforcement Services

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager/CEO to negotiate and execute the reimbursement agreement with the City of Highland for law enforcement services.

## BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

East Valley Water District meets critical needs of the community through water and wastewater services. Maintaining secure facilities is essential to achieving these objectives, resulting in the District taking an active role in emergency mitigation measures including a variety of site safety and security measures.

As the District prepares for operation of the Sterling Natural Resource Center, both for wastewater treatment and community activities, the security needs of the organization are increasing significantly. Given the type of services the District provides, it would be within the legal authority to add a staff member responsible for policing related activities. However, after careful assessment, this increased need can be met through a partnership with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Highland Station. A deputy can be utilized to assist with security at sites throughout the service area, conduct criminal investigations involving District property, and assist District personnel with some customer conflict. Additionally, the deputy may be contracted for certain public events, at the SNRC, at an additional cost.

The District has determined that there would be community benefits to having a Deputy Sheriff assist with day-to-day operations for approximately 20 – 40 hours per week. Given this enhancement to the service area, a contract for services has been developed with the City of Highland to include the cost of a Deputy Sheriff, car, and other relevant work station equipment. Additionally, a dedicated workspace would be provided at the Sterling Natural Resource Center Administrative Offices for the deputy. Given the nature of the contract, it is important to note that ultimate command and control of the deputy will remain at the discretion of the Highland Police Department Command Staff.

This long-term partnership has been designed to take effect on January 1, 2022 and

remain in place until 2031. In the unlikely event that either the District or the City would seek to terminate the contract early, there is a process included to allow for this flexibility in the terms and agreement.

The initial cost for the agreement will be \$154,000 for the remainder of FY 2021-22. The annual contract amount for each fiscal year will be directly charged the full annual costs for the positions, which are anticipated to be approximately \$280,000 for FY 2022-23, but is subject to change based on approved salary and benefits as adopted by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. Since the City of Highland contracts law enforcement with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, this agreement will work in concert with that contract to avoid any confusion or duplication of services. The City of Highland will not be charging an administrative fee for facilitating this agreement.

Partnerships between local agencies such as this provide enhanced levels of service to the community while maximizing organizational expertise. The District will continue fostering a strong working relationship with the City of Highland and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to support our organizational vision.

### **AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- I - Implement Effective Solutions Through Visionary Leadership
  - C. Strengthen Regional, State and National Partnerships
- IV - Promote Planning, Maintenance and Preservation of District Resources
  - A. Develop Projects and Programs to Ensure Safe and Reliable Services

### **REVIEW BY OTHERS**

This agenda item has been reviewed by Legal Counsel.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

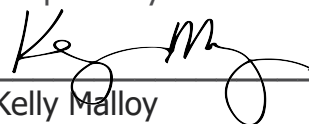
This item is funded in the current fiscal year budget.

Recommended by:



John Mura  
General Manager/CEO

Respectfully submitted:



Kelly Malloy  
Director of Strategic Services